

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figures 1A-1C. Each has been labeled "Prior Art."

Attachment: Replacement sheet

REMARKS

Applicants hereby traverse the current objections, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein. Claims 1-23 are indicated as having allowable material. Claims 1-23 are pending in this application.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings, specifically Figures 1A-1C. In response, Applicants submit a proposed drawing change to Figures 1A-1C, as suggested by the Examiner, that labels the Figures as Prior Art. As each identified instance of informality has been corrected with a corresponding proposed amendment, Applicants believe that the objection to the drawings has been overcome, and that this objection should be withdrawn.

Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract stands objected to for informalities listed on page 3 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have amended the Abstract to address the listed informalities. Each identified instance has been corrected with a corresponding amendment. No new matter has been entered. Thus, Applicants believe that the objection to the specification has been overcome, and that this objection should be withdrawn.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 6, 17, and 23 are objected to for informalities listed on pages 3-4 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have amended claims 6, 17, and 23 in accordance with the suggestions provided by the Office Action. Each identified instance of informality has been corrected with a corresponding amendment. The claims have been amended only for the purpose of resolving the cited informalities, and not for the purpose of narrowing their scope in the face of prior art. No new matter has been entered. As these amendments address the recited informalities, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection of record.

Reasons for Allowance

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-23 include allowable subject matter. However, Applicants note that the reasons for allowance incorrectly characterize the subject matter of claims 1-23. The speed comparison logic module has at least one logic output terminal operable to assert a logic output signal in response to a comparison of said evaluate signal with one of said first output signal and said second output signal. Applicants also note that claim 1 does not contain the words "which allows the option of preventing from propagating the signals in the first or second delay lines". Applicants further note that claims 6-23 defines limitations that are different from those of claims 1-5. For example, claim 6 defines a method for evaluating the speed of a circuit. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-23 are allowable for reasons other than those stated in the Office Action. If the Examiner disagrees, then Applicants respectfully request that prosecution be reopened and a rejection over prior art be presented. Otherwise, Applicants respectfully request that this application be allowed to pass to issue.

Conclusion

For all the reasons given above, the Applicants submit that the pending claims distinguish over the prior art of record. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that this application is in full condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the below listed attorney if the Examiner believes that such a discussion would be helpful in resolving any remaining problems.

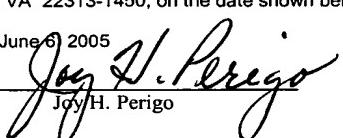
Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 200208752-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: June 6, 2005

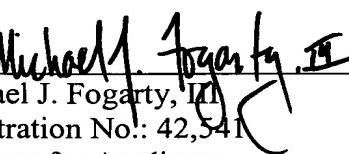
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV482707893US, in an envelope addressed to:
MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: June 6, 2005

Signature:



Respectfully submitted,

By 
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